

# BIG OAKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## 2015 SPECIAL HUNT INFORMATION

Drawn hunters can reserve their hunt area by calling the refuge office (**only phone calls will be accepted for reservations**) on or after the date indicated for your hunt from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (EDT) (812-273-0783). All numbered hunt areas on the refuge map are available for public hunting in 2015. **Check the refuge website for more hunt information ([http://www.fws.gov/refuge/big\\_oaks/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/big_oaks/)).**

### October Hunt Reservation Dates

September 22 for October 10-11 hunt  
September 23 for October 17-18 hunt  
September 24 for October 24-25 hunt

### November Hunt Reservation Dates

September 29 for November 1 hunt  
September 30 for November 2 hunt  
October 1 for November 7-8 hunt  
October 6 for November 14-15 hunt  
October 7 for November 21-22 hunt

The information on the Indiana DNR website will indicate your hunt dates and the weapon type for which you were selected. You must hunt with a partner on Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. You can participate in multiple hunts if you are chosen as a partner in addition to being selected in the drawing. There is no limit on how many times you can participate as a partner. You may not exceed the daily bag limit on Big Oaks NWR of two (2) deer. **All hunters must observe season, equipment, and sex restrictions for each license used on Big Oaks NWR. Each hunter has the option of using/buying military/refuge licenses (these are already included as part of the suite of deer tags available for Lifetime License and Youth License holders); hunters can use two (2) military/refuge licenses per hunt day. Hunters can earn an extra buck with the harvest and check-in of an antlerless deer for each type of hunt (a total of 4 bucks/hunter with the harvest and check-in of an antlerless deer for the archery hunt and an antlerless deer for the primitive muzzleloader/gun hunt). Without the check-in of an antlerless deer, the limit is 1 buck/hunter during the refuge archery hunts and 1 buck/hunter during the refuge firearm hunts.**

If you were selected for an archery hunt you will be permitted to hunt on two successive days. Archers can take up to 2 antlerless deer per day and a total of 4 deer using the following licenses: regular archery, crossbow, bonus antlerless, deer license bundle, and/or military/refuge licenses (daily bag limit is 2 deer if hunter has appropriate tags). **Bonus Antlerless licenses can also be used to harvest antlerless deer on Big Oaks NWR. Note: An extra buck earned during the archery hunt does not carry over to any of the firearm hunts. Hunters can use a crossbow with appropriate license during archery hunts at Big Oaks NWR. Archery Hunters who have a valid fall turkey license can also harvest 1 turkey during their hunt (the turkey counts toward their state bag limit).**

If you were selected for a firearm (regular firearm or primitive muzzleloader) hunt you will be permitted to hunt on one or two successive days depending on the date(s) drawn. Primitive muzzleloaders are defined on the refuge website. You may use a state firearm license, bonus antlerless license, deer license bundle, and/or your military/refuge licenses to take up to 2 deer per day (daily bag limit is 2 deer if hunter has appropriate tags). **You may use the state firearm season license only during the State Gun Season (November 14 to November 29 in 2015) to harvest a buck; military/refuge licenses may be used to take deer of either sex on the special hunt area. You cannot use a bundled license to take a buck during the primitive muzzleloader hunt or with a firearm outside of the State Gun Season at Big Oaks NWR. Bonus Antlerless licenses can also be used to harvest antlerless deer on Big Oaks NWR. See above for buck bag limits.**

**The use of a military/refuge license(s) allows you to harvest multiple deer of either sex on the refuge and still use your other deer license(s) to hunt elsewhere in the state.** Hunters who choose not to purchase a military/refuge license must use their regular firearms, bonus antlerless, archery license, or deer license bundle during the appropriate time periods. Military/refuge licenses are available on-line and from any license agent who sells deer licenses. **Big Oaks NWR does not sell deer licenses.**

The day before your hunt and on public use days beginning October 2nd, safety briefings will be held at 7:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and 3:00 PM and **\$20/Hunt Permits** will be sold after the briefing. It is strongly encouraged that you attend one of these early safety briefings, it will prevent long delays on the initial day of your hunt allowing you to arrive at your hunting area up to one hour earlier than would otherwise be possible. On your hunt date, please arrive at the Refuge office through Gate 1 of the former Jefferson Proving Ground, located North of Madison on US 421 (see map), on or before 5:30 AM (October) and 4:30 AM (November). If you have not previously attended the 2015 mandatory safety briefing one will be provided and a Hunt Permit will be sold. Camping is not permitted on Big Oaks NWR but accommodations are available in Madison, approximately 3 miles away. No services are available on Big Oaks NWR.

**You are responsible for knowing and abiding by all refuge regulations. State regulations apply regarding Hunter Safety requirements and use of hunter orange. There will be no opportunity to pre-scout your selected area. Deer hunters must possess and carry a compass/GPS to hunt at Big Oaks NWR.**

**Big Oaks NWR is located on the former Jefferson Proving Ground where munitions were tested and unexploded munitions can still be found . . . Do not touch or disturb any metal object. If you have any questions, please call Big Oaks NWR at (812) 273-0783. This is not a toll-free call.**

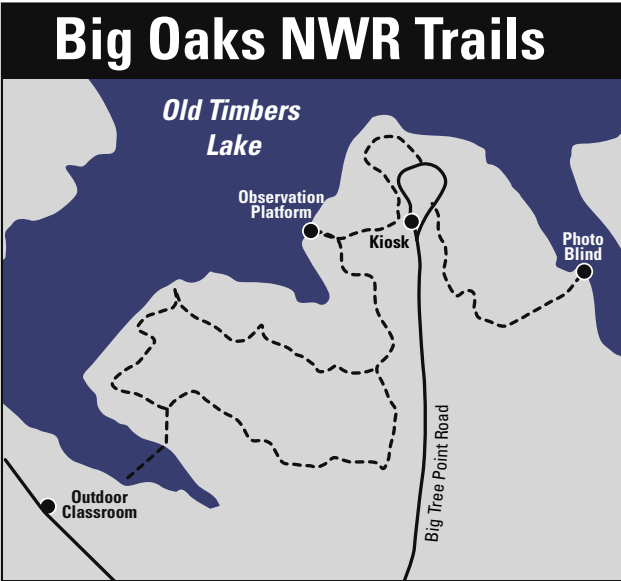
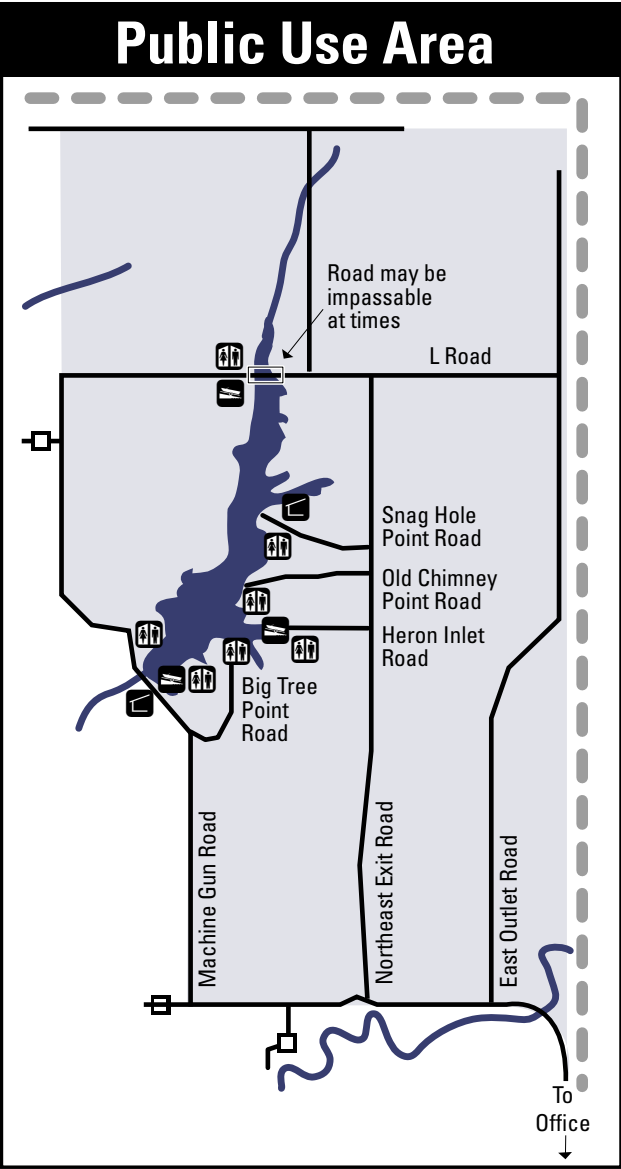
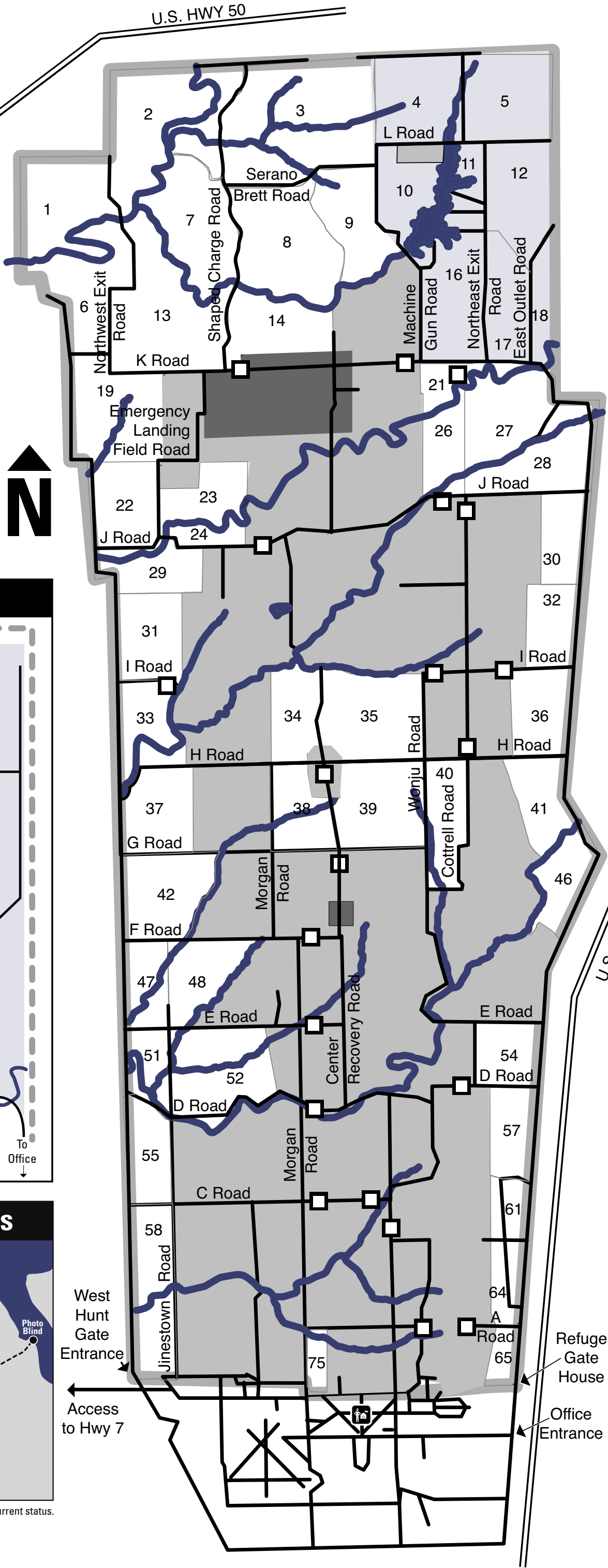
**Hunt Permit fees (\$20) are only waived for those 15 or under; Hunt Permits will be \$10.00 for holders of the Senior Pass (available at the refuge for \$10 for those 62 or older) or holders of the Access Pass (for those permanently disabled). Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and Annual Permits no longer waive Hunt Permit fees. Your deer hunting license must be in your possession upon your arrival. Portable deer stands are allowed for both archery and firearm hunts. Tree steps or screw-in steps are prohibited. Intoxicants (including beer), fires, and ATVs are not permitted on the grounds during hunting.**

**All legal state of Indiana permitted firearms and handguns for deer hunting will be allowed as legal weapons during the gun hunt. You must officially check-in deer at the refuge office.**

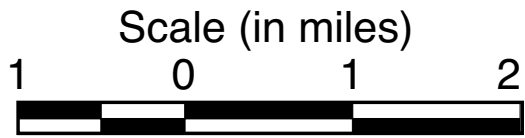
**If you fail to show up for the first hunt day and were drawn to hunt 2 days, your reserved slot for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be given away unless you have made prior arrangements with refuge staff to hunt only the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Drawn hunters must check-in at the refuge office before 7:00 AM (October) and 6:00 AM (November) or their reserved slot is lost. “No show” drawings will be held each day of the hunt at 7:00 AM (October) and 6:00 AM (November) to fill empty slots. Those drawn during a “no show” drawing may use 2 military/refuge licenses for each hunt day that they are drawn to hunt.**

**Big Oaks NWR is conducting a special 2-day youth deer hunt event on October 30 - October 31. To apply, send a post card postmarked by October 1 with the youth's name and address to: Big Oaks NWR, 1661 W JPG Niblo Road, Madison, IN 47250. A total of 150 youth (17 or under) will be selected by lottery and each youth will be notified by mail thereafter. Those youth drawn can attend an optional deer hunting workshop on October 30 and a 1-day firearm deer hunt on October 31. Hunt areas can be reserved by the youth during the hunt workshop. The youth must have a responsible adult hunter as a guide, and the youth will be the only one allowed to hunt.**

- Refuge Office
- Restrooms
- Boat Launch
- Shelter
- Barricade (No Access)
- Air National Guard Range (No Access)
- Streams
- Closed Areas
- Roads
- Hunting Areas
- Day Use Area
- Old Timbers Lake

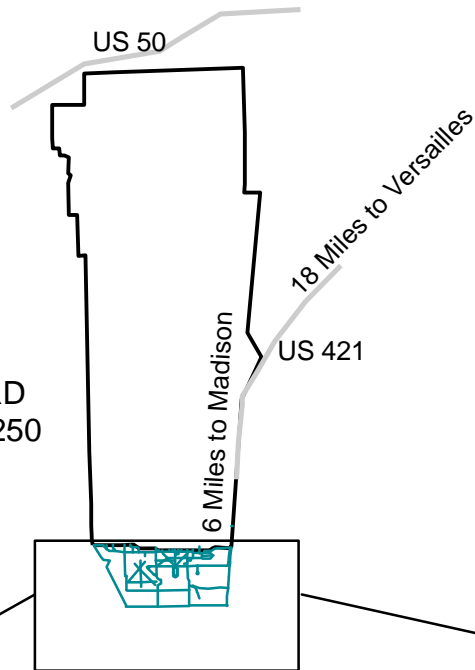


Portions under construction. Please check at the office for current status.



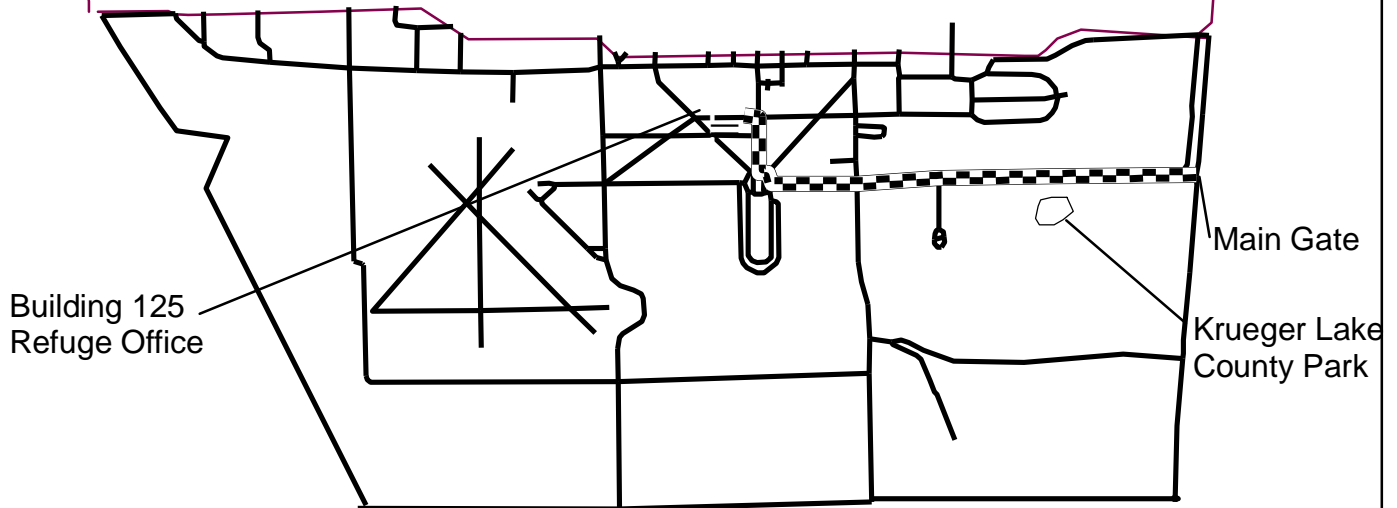
# Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

Big Oaks NWR  
1661 W. JPG Niblo RD  
Madison, Indiana 47250  
Office 812-273-0783




Entrance through Gate 1 of the former Jefferson Proving Ground follow the indicated route on the map to the Refuge Office

## Route to Refuge Office




### Legend

 Route to Refuge Office

 Refuge Office

 Southern Roads

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Check in at Building 125  
Call 812-273-0783 for assistance